|  |
| --- |
| *Once upon a time, a long time ago,* King Gilgamesh sat alone in his garden, thinking things over. He knew he was strong enough to pick up mountains. He knew he could dive down to the deepest point in the ocean and back again in one breath. He knew that any time he fought one of the monsters who lived in the forest near his kingdom, he would win. He always won.  Gilgamesh was bored. He had nothing to do that was any fun at all except scare his subjects silly with his tempers and his tantrums.  Recently, even the monsters in the forest had taken to hiding every time Gilgamesh went looking for a good fight. If he could fly, he would have flown over the forest and spotted their hiding places. But he could not fly. After all, wasn't he a god? Well, two-thirds of a god? What good were special powers if there was nothing fun to do with them? His sighs grew heavier and heavier.  Gilgamesh dragged himself to his feet and wandered towards the ziggurat to join his people in prayer. Every day, the people gathered at the ziggurat. The ziggurat was a temple - a really big temple - with stairs that seemed to climb to the sky. His people eyed him nervously. Gilgamesh did not notice. He knew he should be praying for his people's safety, and for food enough for everyone. But instead, Gilgamesh prayed for something to do, something *fun*!  The gods looked down and noticed Gilgamesh sighing loudly at the foot of the ziggurat. They understood gloom being gloomy themselves most of the time. They decided since his prayer was a fair one, they would answer it.  The gods quickly created a wild man - a man stronger and faster than Gilgamesh. They named him Enkidu. The gods sent Enkidu down to earth. Enkidu went roaring into the city of Uruk. The townspeople fled in terror.  Gilgamesh perked up immediately. The two men/gods roared and wrestled and bit and scratched, but neither could beat the other. Enkidu was stronger. He grabbed Gilgamesh around the throat. But Gilgamesh could hold his breath for a very long time. Every time Enkidu tired of trying to strangle him, Gilgamesh broke free and grabbed for Enkidu's throat. But Enkidu was faster and eluded him every time.  And so it went. All over town. They knocked down houses and tipped over food carts and started laughing and soon became the best of friends. Since there was nothing much to do around town, arm in arm, the two god/men left Uruk in search of adventure elsewhere.  When the citizens of Uruk and the monsters in the forest heard their king had left town, they threw a huge festival to thank their beloved gloomy god, Marduk, for sending their king a friend. They prayed every day to powerful Marduk that their king would enjoy adventures all over the world for a *very* longtime. |

Excerpts from the Prologue:

I will proclaim to the world the deeds of Gilgamesh. This was the man to whom all things were known; this was the king who knew the countries of the world. He was wise, he saw mysteries and knew secret things, he brought us a tale of the days before the flood. He went on a long journey, was weary, worn-out with labour, returning he rested, he engraved on a stone the whole story.

When the gods created Gilgamesh they gave him a perfect body. Shamash the glorious sun endowed him with beauty, Adad the god of the storm endowed him with courage, the great gods made his beauty perfect, surpassing all others, terrifying like a great wild bull. Two thirds they made him god and one third man.

In Uruk he built walls, a great rampart, and the temple of blessed Eanna for the god of the firmament Anu, and for Ishtar the goddess of love. Look at it still today: the outer wall where the cornice runs, it shines with the brilliance of copper; and the inner wall, it has no equal. Touch the threshold, it is ancient. Approach Eanna the dwelling of Ishtar, our lady of love and war, the like of which no latter-day king, no man alive can equal. Climb upon the wall of Uruk; walk along it, I say; regard the foundation terrace and examine the masonry: is it not burnt brick and good? The seven sages laid the foundations.

Excerpts from the Death of Gilgamesh:

The destiny was fulfilled which the father of the gods, Enlil of the mountain, had decreed for Gilgamesh: 'In nether-earth the darkness will show him a light: of mankind, all that are known, none will leave a monument for generations to come to compare with his. The heroes, the wise men, like the new moon have their waxing and waning. Men will say, "Who has ever ruled with might and with power like him?" As in the dark month, the month of shadows, so without him there is no light. O Gilgamesh, this was the meaning of your dream. You were given the kingship, such was your destiny, everlasting life was not your destiny. Because of this do not be sad at heart, do not be grieved or oppressed; he has given you power to bind and to loose, to be the darkness and the light of mankind. He has given unexampled supremacy over the people, victory in battle from which no fugitive returns, in forays and assaults from which there is no going back. But do not abuse this power, deal justly with your servants in the palace, deal justly before the face of the Sun.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Gilgamesh Project ☺***

Using the excerpts/ edited versions of one of the Gilgamesh tales as inspiration to help you create one of the following assignments.

1. ***Annotated Superhero of Gilgamesh*** 
   1. Create an illustration of Gilgamesh the “Superhero” then label it with explanations for the design and why you chose the symbols, ideas and design you chose.
   2. Write a 2 paragraph explanation of how the Gilgamesh excerpts influenced your design.
2. ***Comic Strip*** 
   1. Create a 5-8 block comic strip based on one of the excerpts of the Gilgamesh tale. Your comic should include illustrations, thought or word bubbles and 1 to 2 sentence explanation of each block.
3. ***Children’s book***
   1. Create a children’s version of the Gilgamesh excerpts by illustrating and writing a picture book of 8 pages. Your book should include illustrations and writing on each page.

All assignments require a brainstorm or scrap copy as well as a final good copy.

Final work due on Monday October 1st, 2012.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Outcome*** | ***NY*** | ***Meets*** | ***Exceeds*** |
| Innovate  **Develop new and helpful ways of looking at opportunities, challenges, and problems.** |  | Assignment develops your view of the epic of Gilgamesh is a new an inventive way. Product illustrates your ability to think beyond the surface of the content. | Assignment develops your view of the epic of Gilgamesh is a supremely inventive way. Product strongly shows ability to generate ideas that are far beyond surface level. |
| Plan  **Make deliberate plans, reflect, and persevere in order to achieve goals.** |  | Create an organized plan/draft of your assignment to outline and prepare for your project. | Create an organized plan/draft of your assignment to outline and prepare for your project. Have a peer provide editing feedback and show evidence of revision. |

1. Comic Strip of Gilgamesh
2. Children’s book version of Gilgamesh